

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in the present application, specifically, claims 1-17 and 19-29. The forgoing amendment cancels claims 30-38 without prejudice to Applicants pursuit of these claims in a continuation application. Now in the application are claims 1-17 and 19-29 of which claim 1 is independent. Applicants contend that the application is in condition for allowance as discussed below.

Rejection of Claims 30-32 and 35-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 30-32 and 35-38 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,542,846 of Miller et al. (hereinafter “Miller”) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0021217 (hereinafter “Gunther”). Applicants respectfully consider each claim rejection moot for claims 30-32 and 35-38 are cancelled without prejudice by the above amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 30-32 and 35-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Rejection of Claims 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 33 and 34 as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Gunther and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,291,607 of Ristic et al. (hereinafter “Ristic”). Applicants respectfully consider the rejection of claims 33 and 34 moot in view of the forgoing amendment canceling these claims without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

CONCLUSION

In view of the Amendment and Remarks set forth above, Applicants contend that this application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner deems there are any remaining issues, we invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400. Applicant believes no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. SMQ-089 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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